



State of Washington

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 - (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207  
Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

### **DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

**Name of Proposal:** CLALLAM CO. TAYLOR'S CHECKERSPOT BUTTERFLY HABITAT RESTORATION

**Description of Proposal:** Meadow patch restoration at 5 sites in Clallam County

This project is intended to improve habitat for the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, a state endangered and a species proposed for federal listing under the endangered species act. Habitat improvement will occur in small patches within or directly adjacent to areas occupied by the butterfly. The work will occur at 5 sites where the butterfly occurs. Three are on Olympic National Forest Lands and two are on Washington Department of Natural Resources and private land.

One of the major limiting factors affecting the healthy functioning of Taylor's checkerspot habitat is encroachment of trees and shrubs. Historically, several of these grassland bald sites were maintained by frequent wildfire and/or slow natural regeneration. Most recently, these sites have been managed for timber production, with improved stocking and re-stocking after wildfire and/or harvest. Over time larval food plants have become shaded and either die out or become inaccessible to the butterfly through development of trees and shrubs. Several small populations are threatened with extirpation due to the growth and development of trees and shrubs.

A pilot project in 2008 – 2010 was conducted to remove trees and shrubs, and monitor response of checkerspots to the release of larval and adult food resources. The project monitoring results indicated that checkerspots occupied and laid eggs in areas where trees and shrubs were removed in the spring following habitat enhancement. Our proposed project will closely follow the initial project methods and monitoring.

We will control trees and shrubs using cutting back and herbicide methods at 5 distinct sites. Work crew would vary, with biologist, crew supervisor, and one to five crew members (Fall 2013). Chainsaws would be used for cutting trees. Cut material will be either 1) removed from the unit by hand, or 2) piled in non-habitat, whichever provides the least potential impact to habitat. Material will be carried, and not dragged through occupied habitat. Shrubs with potential for re-sprouting will be cut-stump sprayed with herbicide. Scot's broom may be treated with herbicide, either foliar application (small plants) or cut stump treatments (large plants). Tree and shrub removal will occur over approximately 1-3 acres at each of 5 sites. Piles will be approximately 6 feet by 6 feet in size.

Trees cut will generally be less than 8 inches dbh, but up to 10 trees (primarily douglas-fir or maple) between 8 and 12 inches dbh may be removed at each of the 5 sites. Not all trees and shrubs will be removed in selected areas; tree and shrub cover will be reduced to less than 10 percent.

We will determine whether checkerspots use or continue to use areas after tree and shrub removal occurs. Prior to habitat management actions, areas selected will be searched for egg

laying locations. A year later, after habitat management actions occur, areas will be re-searched for egg-laying locations. Modifications to treatment units may be made if initial searches indication management actions may adversely affect Taylor's checkerspot.

**Proponent/Applicant:** David Hays, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091; phone 360-902-2366, [David.Hays@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:David.Hays@dfw.wa.gov)

**Location of Proposal: Multiple Locations, Clallam County, Washington;**

Sections 7,8,17,18, 19, 20, Township 30 North, Range 07 West WM

Section 12, Township 30 North, Range 08 West WM

Section 4,5, Township 30 North, Range 03 West WM

Section 29, 32, Township 29 North, Range 03 West WM

Section 18, 19, Township 28 North, Range 03 West WM

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law<sup>1</sup> does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **August 19, 2013**.

**Method of Comment:**

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to [SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov)
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

**Responsible Official:** Bob Zeigler

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** August 2, 2013

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)

2. WAC 197-11-340(2).